

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 11, line 24, change "palte" to --plate--

Page 11, line 25, change "tow" to --two--

Page 12, line 21, change "a ny" to --any--

Page 12, line 32, change "hoave" to --have--

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Ward et al	§	
		§	Art Unit:
Serial No:	10/649,316	§	
		§	Examiner:
Filed:	08/27/2003	§	
		§	Atty Docket No: SC 089
For:	Automated Methods For	§	
	Making Screen Assemblies	§	Conf. No. 4608
	For Vibratory Separators	§	

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 04/07/2006

NEW, CLEAN PAGES 11 AND 12 WITH CHANGES

the belt 133 and are, optionally, releasably mounted on supports 149. The frames move successively from a welder 141 through cleaner apparatus 142, heater apparatus 143, and coating apparatus 144.

5 40. The present invention, therefore, provides, in at least certain embodiments, a method for making a frame for a screen assembly for a vibratory separator the method including making a frame support for a screen assembly for a vibratory separator with robotic welding apparatus, moving the frame support to cleaning
10 apparatus, cleaning the frame support with the cleaning apparatus, moving manually and/or with mechanical movement apparatus the frame support to heating apparatus, heating the frame support with the heating apparatus, moving the heated frame support to coating apparatus with mechanical movement apparatus, coating the frame
15 support in the coating apparatus with protective material, and allowing the coated frame support to cool so that the protective material sets. Such a method may have one or some, in any possible combination, of the following: wherein the protective material is epoxy; wherein the cleaning apparatus is sand blasting apparatus or
20 liquid cleaning apparatus; wherein the frame support is made of tubular members, either hollow or solid; emplacing a grid adjacent the frame support; connecting the grid to the frame support; producing the grid by punching with robotic punching apparatus a plate or piece for supporting screening material; wherein
25 automated movement apparatus moves the frame support between any two steps and/or from step to step; wherein automated movement apparatus moves the grid from the punching step to the cleaning apparatus; connecting a secondary support to the frame support; and/or wherein the secondary support is from the group consisting
30 of perforated plate and strip support.

The present invention, therefore, provides, in at least certain embodiments, a method for making a screen assembly for a vibratory separator the method including making a frame support

SC 089

[using any method disclosed above] and combining screening material with the frame support. Such a screen assembly may have one or some, in any possible combination, of the following: wherein the screening material comprises a plurality of layers of screening material; wherein the layers of the plurality of layers of screening material are connected together; wherein the layers are connected together by a method from the group consisting of bonding, sewing, gluing, and adhering; wherein the screening material is combined with the frame support by a method from the group consisting of fastening, welding, gluing, adhering, and bonding; connecting a grid to the frame support; wherein the grid is from the group consisting of coarse mesh layer, perforated plate, and strip support; and/or wherein the screening material is a first layer of screening material and a second layer of screening material, the method further including placing the first layer of screening material below a glue application apparatus for applying heated initially flowable hot melt glue, the first layer of screening material made of metal, and including a first metal mesh through which liquid in the fluid is passable and having a first metal mesh pattern, applying with the glue apparatus an amount of heated hot melt glue in a pattern to the top surface of the first layer of screening material, positioning a second layer of screening material adjacent and in contact with the first layer to which glue has been applied gluing together the first layer and the second layer, the second layer of screening material made of metal and including a second metal mesh through which liquid in the fluid is passable, and wherein the pattern of applied glue is different from the first metal mesh pattern.

The present invention, therefore, provides, in at least certain embodiments, a vibratory separator having screen assembly holding apparatus, vibrating apparatus for imparting vibration to the screen assembly apparatus, and the screen assembly apparatus as any disclosed herein and/or with a frame support made by any method

SC 089